

Secretary Babbitt: No, sir.

Chairman Thompson: You definitely remember you did not say that?

Secretary Babbitt: I do, and I represented that much in my letter to Senator McCain.<sup>792</sup>

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Chairman Thompson: . . . Mr. Eckstein said that you told him that Mr. Ickes wanted you to make a decision that day. You, in fact, did make a decision that day, but say that although you told him that Mr. Ickes wanted you to make a decision, you definitely remember you did not say that you wanted it that day?

Secretary Babbitt: That is correct.

Chairman Thompson: Is that correct?

Secretary Babbitt: [Nodding head up and down]<sup>793</sup>

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Chairman Thompson: All right. Did you tell Mr. Eckstein that Mr. Ickes had told you to make the decision without delay?

Secretary Babbitt: I did not.

Chairman Thompson: Tell us again what you told Mr. Eckstein about that.

Secretary Babbitt: Senator, my best recollection is that I may well have said something to the effect that Mr. Ickes expects me to make a decision or Mr. Ickes wants me to make a decision.

Chairman Thompson: Any time in the future, is that what you are telling us, that you were relating to him – I mean, here you are. He has been told by your counselor to get immediately right in there. You knew that the decision was going to be made

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<sup>792</sup>*Id.* at 241-42.

<sup>793</sup>*Id.* at 242.